

## WELCOME

The Hickory Creek Wilderness is part of the National Wilderness Preservation System which includes lands that are designated for preservation and protection of their natural condition. This System of lands provides clean air, water, recreation, and habitat critical for rare and endangered plants and animals. Visitors are encouraged to accept wilderness on its own terms, without modern facilities provided for comfort or convenience. Certain risks, including possible dangers arising from weather conditions, physical features, and other natural phenomena, are inherent in the various elements and conditions that comprise a wilderness experience.

*"A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, and where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."*

—The Wilderness Act of 1964



## DESCRIPTION

The United States Congress designated Hickory Creek Wilderness in 1984. It contains 8,663 acres of gentle to moderate terrain bound by Forest Road 119 to the south and State Routes 2002 and 3005 to the north. The area contains two primary drainages, East Hickory Creek and Middle Hickory Creek. Elevation is from 1273 feet to 1900 feet. Heavy forest cover is composed of northern hardwoods: black cherry, oak, beech, birch, and hemlock. Bear, deer, and turkey are common.

## LOCATION

Hickory Creek Wilderness is located on the Allegheny National Forest, Bradford Ranger District, in Warren County, Pennsylvania. Nearby towns include Warren, Sheffield and Tidioute. Primary access is from a dedicated parking area located along State Route 2002. The area is found within U.S.G.S Cherry Grove and Cobham map quadrangles.

## RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Most types of recreational uses are allowed except those needing motorized equipment such as bicycles, snowmobiles or OHVs. Hunting, fishing and trapping are allowed subject to the rules of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission. There are no developed campgrounds however primitive camping is allowed throughout the area. Visitors are encouraged to use already established campsites whenever possible and remove all traces of human presence when breaking camp. The Hickory Creek Trail, located entirely within the wilderness, is for hiking, backpacking and cross country skiing or snow shoeing. The

wildness found in Hickory Creek Wilderness is characterized by high degrees of both naturalness and freedom from human control. This character compliments the recreational experience by supporting unique opportunities for solitude, challenge, discovery and risk.

## GENERAL WILDERNESS PROHIBITIONS

Motorized equipment and equipment used for mechanical transport is generally prohibited on all federal lands designated as wilderness. This includes cars, trucks, off-road vehicles, bicycles, snowmobiles, motorboats, hang gliders, wagons, carts, portage wheels, and the landing of aircraft including helicopters. These general prohibitions have been implemented for all national forest wildernesses in order to implement the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

## LEAVE NO TRACE

In wilderness, "...man himself is a visitor who does not remain." When visitors leave evidence of their journeys, the next visitor loses the sense of solitude and undisturbed recreation opportunities. "Leave No Trace" encourages wilderness visitors to take responsibility for being unnoticed. Please help by following these simple Leave No Trace principles:

- Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter. Bury human waste 6-8 inches deep and 200 feet from water, campsites and trails.
- Keep fires small, use existing fire rings or a lightweight stove instead.
- Respect wildlife by observing from a distance and never feed animals. Hickory Creek is home to the American black bear. Always hang food and trash away from bears reach on a suspended line or rope.
- Camp 200 feet or more from trails and streams or lakes and wash away from water sources.
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces such as rocks, gravel, dry grasses or snow.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Be considerate of other visitors and let nature's sounds prevail.

## SHOULD YOU BUILD A FIRE?

The most important consideration to be made when deciding to use a fire is the potential damage to the backcountry. What is the fire danger for the time of year and the location you have selected? Are there administrative restrictions from the agency that administers the area? Is there sufficient wood so its removal will not be noticed? Do group members possess the skill to build a campfire that will Leave No Trace?

# Hickory Creek Wilderness



## Allegheny National Forest

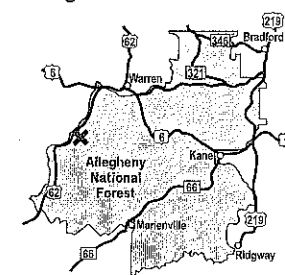
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service



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## HIKING THE TRAIL

Hickory Creek Trail, the only designated trail in the Wilderness, is managed for foot travel only. The rolling 12-mile loop provides for easy day hikes as well as overnight backpacking opportunities along flat to moderately steep terrain. There is only one trailhead located at the Hickory Creek parking area along State Route 2002. The trail is marked with infrequent faded yellow or white blazes painted on trees along the sides of the trail. It is maintained to more primitive standards than other trails in order to preserve wilderness character. Small groups are encouraged and larger hiking groups should be split into smaller groups of 4-6. The trail may be difficult to follow, especially during winter. Be prepared for the duration of your stay and always carry a map, compass, or GPS. Cell phone coverage may be unreliable as cell phone towers and services are limited in this area. Always prepare for extreme weather, hazards and emergencies.



ENJOY YOUR STAY!

### Legend

- Wilderness Boundary
- Forest Road
- State Highway
- Hickory Creek Trail
- Stream
- Countour 100'
- Parking

## Hickory Creek Wilderness

Allegheny National Forest

### Hickory Creek Trail Information

Length: 12 miles

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Elevation Gain: 100 to 200 feet

Recommended Trip Time: 2 days

Recommended Seasons:

Spring, Summer, Fall

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bradford Ranger District.....814-362-4613

[www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/allegheny](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/allegheny)

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 911

